

**Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan  
Emergency Support Function #2**

**Emergency Support Function – No. 2  
COMMUNICATIONS**

**Primary Agency:**

Virginia Information Technologies Agency  
(VITA)

Virginia Department of Emergency  
Management (VDEM)

**Support Agencies and Organizations**

- Department of Aviation (DOAV)
- Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)
- Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF)
- Department of Military Affairs (DMA)
- Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC)
- Northrup Grumman (NG)
- Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS), Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
- Other COV agencies and/or COV Higher learning institutions with telecommunications capabilities.
- Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES)
- Virginia Defense Force (VADF)
- Virginia State Police (VSP)
- Virginia Wing, Civil Air Patrol (CAP)

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**Introduction**

This document outlines the responsibilities and expectations of ESF-2, hosting VITA Integrated Services Program (ISP) participants, and NG as the primary information technology contractor to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Purpose**

VDEM, with assistance from VITA, provides oversight of emergency communications during drills, activation and/or declared emergencies. In addition, VITA will provide coordination of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) policies as they pertain to oversight of radio spectrum use and implementation.

Emergency Support Function—Communications (ESF-2) ensures the provision of adequate communications, including wireless (including LMR—Land Mobile Radio operations and FCC policy), wireline, and Information Technology (IT) to support state, local, and private-sector response efforts.

**Scope**

ESF-2 coordinates state wireless, wireline and IT actions consistent with VITA, VDEM/VEOC, Commonwealth of Virginia and/or Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules, regulations and policies. Communication is information

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transfer and involves the technology associated with the representation, transfer, interpretation, and processing of data among persons, places, and machines. This shall be consistent with the Virginia Critical Infrastructure Sector Specific Plan for Communications and shall be in alignment with and be superseded with current (applicable) FCC policy and regulatory guidelines.

These services will support all state agencies in the procurement and coordination of all telecommunications essentials in the form of telecommunications and (IT) hardware, software and support during an incident response. This will also be extended to localities upon request and as circumstances permit.

VITA will provide FCC policy guidance and frequency coordination services to VDEM and other state agencies as needed and/or as the situation lends itself during training exercises and/or incidents of any nature or magnitude.

### **Mission**

The mission of ESF-2 is the coordination of VITA/State policy, FCC regulatory policy and regulations, wireless, wireline, and IT services for the purpose of providing and/or restoring required or essential telecommunications/IT services to the Commonwealth of Virginia stakeholder community at large (including localities on a case-by-case basis). ESF-2 will be staffed at a minimum during all required incidents, as requested. The staffing may continue on an as needed extended shift; and/or 24 hours per day, 7 days per week shift if requested by the VEOC and/or VITA management. This mission may be extended by VEOC and/or VITA management during active incidents.

### **Assisting Federal Agencies**

- Army Corps of Engineers
- Department of Homeland Security; Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District (CCGDFIVE)
- Department of Homeland Security; Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Department of Homeland Security; National Communications System (NCS)
- National Weather Service (NWS)

### **Concept of Operations**

The concept of emergency operations is dependent upon the availability of resources and assets, including personnel, from the NG contractor. These operations are intended to compliment those activities and roles that are outlined in the Virginia Critical Infrastructure Protection and Resiliency Strategic Plan (VCIPR) Specifically the Sector-Specific ‘Communications’ Plan.

Communications at a high level within the Commonwealth of Virginia (COV) are dependent upon VITA/NG IT assets, user and leased commercial telephone lines, ISP—Internet Service Providers, Broadband providers and/or leased IT networks, the VSP microwave radio system and STARS affiliated facilities, along with DCR, DGIF, DOC, VDOT, VDOF, and other COV agencies/Higher Education institutions with telecommunications personnel and assets. The combined and effective deployment of these resources and personnel as outlined further in this section shall be the priority of this plan. The Commonwealth of Virginia (COV) Sector-Specific Communications Plan will be the next supplementary level of implementation should event(s) outstrip the outlined resources and level of personnel. State, Local, Federal Agencies in conjunction with public and volunteer organizations, and public/public-private partnerships will be used to support actual

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on-scene operations and to provide auxiliary communications on a local or sub-regional basis.

RACES and the CAP radio nets will provide the secondary communications means for statewide direction and coordination of emergency/disaster operations.

### **Coordination of Activities**

The VDEM Communications Officer in coordination with VITA Integrated Services Program Director and the VITA Public Safety Radio Engineering section will integrate the communications (telecommunications) capabilities of available federal, state, public/public-private partnerships and volunteer organizations into a viable communications system to support emergency and disaster operations. The VDEM Communications Officer is the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Communications Coordinator; and upon direction of the Governor, will assume control over all state telecommunications assets. VITA Radio Engineering section will continue to implement and be responsible for the coordination of FCC policies as it pertains to oversight of radio spectrum use and implementation. These activities will be coordinated with the VDEM Communications Officer.

Applicable weather information from the NWS and other applicable information from the national, state and/or local level will be provided by the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) to ESF-2 in the coordination of their activities.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **The VITA roles:**

- Coordination of Spectrum Policy
- Coordination of activities between VEOC and participants
- Information gathering & exchange
- Technical Support

**Coordination of Spectrum Policy** –VITA will coordinate Spectrum policy as it applies to specific events and tasks—both from a higher level event perspective and within each subset task within a greater defined event(s).

**Coordination of activities between VEOC and participants**—VITA will coordinate with other ESFs, ESF-2 partners—State, Local, Federal Agencies, public/volunteer organizations, and public/public-private partnerships.

**Information gathering & exchange**—VITA will seek, gather, exchange, assimilate, monitor, and provide requested telecommunications information to the VEOC and/or the outlined partnerships to facilitate rapid and effective restoration of the communications infrastructure.

**Technical Support**— ESF-2, through VITA/NG procurement procedures, can provide direct technical and maintenance support outside the ESF-7 role of responsibility consistent within the guidelines of VITA and/or the VITA-NG partnership. Additionally, VITA will supply technical expertise, direct technical support, and maintenance to the ESF-2 partners consistent with written VITA guidelines at the discretion of the ESF-2 leader so as not to involve monetary commitments for which it has no jurisdiction.

### **Defined Limits of Authority**

ESF-2 operations will be activated and deactivated at the request of the Governor and/or the State Coordinator of Emergency Management and/or his/her representative. ESF-2 services may be activated during scheduled and/or routine drills and exercises.